

HOUSE BILL 278

By Fincher

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 3, to designate agate as the official state mineral.

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 42 of the 86th General Assembly, adopted March 25, 1969, designated agate as the official stone of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the words stone, rock, and gem are used interchangeably in such resolution; and

WHEREAS, a stone may be a mineral, a rock, or even a fossil, by definition; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 42 of the Public Acts of 1979 subsequently designated calcium carbonate, commonly known as limestone, as the official state rock; and

WHEREAS, in reality and by definition, agate is a waxy, cryptocrystalline variety of the mineral quartz in which the colors are present in bands, clouds, or distinct groups; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly wishes to correct this discrepancy involving official state symbols; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 3, is amended by adding the following language as a new Section 4-1-330:

§ 4-1-330

Agate is designated as the official state mineral.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.